

Q2  
Sub  
B1  
7. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 3, wherein the unique software routine is configured to execute a method associated with the information associated with the hardware device, the method being operative to pass additional information between the device driver and the SAI management system or perform a certain action.

8. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 7, wherein the driver library contains a software routine to format the additional information in a format consistent with the SAI management system.

Q3  
11. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the driver library is further configured to receive, from the device driver, an identifier for a particular IRP, to execute a particular software routine related to handling the IRP, and to return to the SAI management system any information retrieved from the hardware device as a result of handling the IRP.

Q4  
13. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for providing management information to a system and application independent ("SAI") management system, which, when executed, comprise:

receiving an input/output request packet ("IRP") message from the SAI management system, the IRP message including instructions regarding data maintained by an instrumented hardware device;

passing the IRP to a driver library containing software routines for handling the instructions of the IRP message; and

handling the IRP message by the driver library.

Q5  
19. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the driver library is further configured to format data received from the device driver in a format consistent with the SAI management system.

Sub B1  
20. (New) A computing apparatus comprising a hardware device, a processor and a memory containing:

a device driver configured to provide information and perform actions associated with a hardware device; and

Q6  
a driver library containing software routines to make the information and actions provided by the device driver accessible to a system and application independent ("SAI") management system, the library being accessible by the device driver to handle messages issued to the device driver from the SAI management system.

21. (New) A computing apparatus comprising a hardware device, a processor and a memory, and operative to provide management information to a system and application independent ("SAI") management system, by:

receiving an input/output request packet ("IRP") message from the SAI management system, the IRP message including instructions regarding data maintained by an instrumented hardware device;

passing the IRP to a driver library containing software routines for handling the instructions of the IRP message; and

handling the IRP message by the driver library.

22. (New) A computer implemented method of providing management information to a system and application independent ("SAI") management system, comprising:

Swb BI ~~configuring a device driver to provide information and perform actions associated with a hardware device; and~~

making the information and actions provided by the device driver accessible to an SAI management system, the library being accessible by the device driver to handle messages issued to the device driver from the SAI management system.

23. (New) A computer implemented method of providing management information to a system and application independent ("SAI") management system, comprising:

receiving an input/output request packet ("IRP") message from the SAI management system, the IRP message including instructions regarding data maintained by an instrumented hardware device;

passing the IRP to a driver library containing software routines for handling the instructions of the IRP message; and

handling the IRP message by the driver library.